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(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): COWAN, Stephen, Wayne [AU/AU]; Paltronics Australasia Pty Limited, Units 1-4, 1260 Princess Highway, Heathcote, NSW 2233 (AU). WRIGHT, Dean [AU/AU]; Paltronics Australasia Pty Limited, Units 1-4, 1260 Princess Highway, Heathcote, NSW 2233 (AU).

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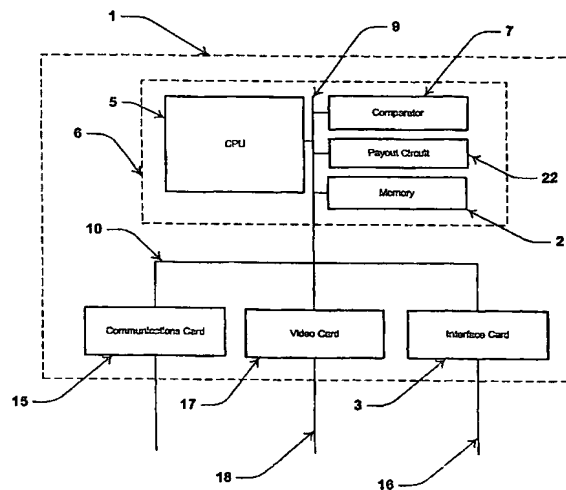
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PALTRONICS AUSTRALASIA PTY LIMITED [AU/AU]; Units 1-4, 1260 Princess Highway, Heathcote, NSW 2233 (AU).

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(54) Title: AN APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AWARDED A PRIZE



(57) Abstract: Apparatus (1) and associated methods are disclosed for determining the award of a plurality of prizes having respective prize values. The apparatus includes memory (2) for storing data indicative of a current prize value; an input device (3) being responsive to input signals from a respective plurality of gaming terminals (4) for providing an increment signal; a controller (5) for defining a prize value between upper and lower prize values and for incrementing an accumulated value toward the current prize value in response to the increment signal; a comparator (7) being responsive to the current prize value and the accumulated value for determining if the current prize value is to be awarded and, if so, generating an award signal that actuates the controller (5) to define a second prize value. Methods are disclosed in which, upon payment of a prize, the accumulated value is reset to the prize value or the upper or lower prize value and in which subsequent prize values are selected between a preceding prize value and either the upper prize value or the lower prize value.

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